

CHAPTER 4 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES

4.1 THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Vinton Municipal Building is the administrative center for the Town of Vinton. Located along South Pollard Street in the heart of Downtown Vinton, this building was constructed in 1982 of a distinctive dark red brick. This building houses several Town Departments including Administration, Finance, Treasurer, Human Resources, Planning and Zoning, Police and Dispatch. The Municipal Building is also the venue for Vinton Town Council meetings which are held twice per month on the first and third Tuesdays, as well as Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings.



Image 4.1 The Vinton Municipal Building

4.2 THE VINTON LIBRARY

The first public library in the Roanoke County Public Library system was opened on December 10, 1941 in a room at a community center. At this time, 500 books were in circulation. The Vinton Library, opened in 1970, was the first branch library in the Roanoke County Public Library system. Measuring 9,400 square feet in size, it was the largest branch for many years, until the Hollins Branch Public Library was remodeled in the early 1990's.

The Vinton Library contains an extensive collection of books, DVD's, children's books, audio books, magazines and other materials. It also includes a children's area, a computer instructional lab, and a community meeting

room. Open 64 hours per week, it is considered a full service branch library, offering research assistance, story times, teen activities, and programs and services for patrons of all ages. Centrally located in the Town of Vinton along Washington Avenue, it is an intrinsic part of the Vinton area and surrounding community.



Image 4.2 The Vinton Public Library

4.3 THE VINTON WAR MEMORIAL

The Vinton War Memorial, commonly referred to as Vinton's civic center, is a tribute to the veterans and 29 Vinton men who gave their lives during World War II and the Vietnam War. In 1944, an eight member war memorial commission was appointed by the Town Council to plan a memorial for World War II heroes. In 1945, a plan was presented to the Town Council which called for the purchase of an 11.25 acre tract located off Washington Street, now called Washington Avenue. The Town Council proceeded with the purchase of the land, paying \$15,000. Among the residents of the Town of Vinton and the War Memorial Commission, money was raised to start the construction of the entire project. The park was finished in 1946, the swimming pool opened in 1947, and the two-story brick building was dedicated and opened to the public on August 20, 1948.

Initially, the Vinton War Memorial included the town library, a kitchen, numerous meeting rooms, and a ballroom. After an extensive renovation in 2007, the Vinton War Memorial is now a beautiful event venue.

The two-story colonial brick structure is composed of several meeting rooms, one large banquet room, one small banquet room, kitchen facilities, and offices for staff. The new look honors the facility's history and tradition while offering guests an exceptional opportunity to have a memorable event at this community landmark.



Image 4.3 The Vinton War Memorial was renovated in 2007.

4.3.1 The Veteran's Monument

Under construction at the time of this plan, the Vinton-Roanoke County Veterans Monument is dedicated to the memory of those who have served and those who continue to serve in our country's Armed Forces. Initial plans for the monument began in 2006, and a ground breaking ceremony was held on July 4, 2008. A competition was held to decide upon the design of the monument. Of the four models submitted in the competition, a design proposal called "High Ground" submitted by Larry Bechtel, John Kirtley, Jr. and Mary Babcock, received approval from the Vinton community. The artists made the following statement about the monument:

"The title of our design proposal, High Ground, came from a friend and Vietnam War Veteran who told me that in battle, a soldier always looks for the high ground."

The design consists of a star-shaped walkway with a brick cobblestone effect that will surround and lead to the main part of the monument structure. The brick style pavers are available for individual purchase in honor of a deceased veteran, someone who serves or has served, or a person one would like to recognize for any reason. The dogwood, an important symbol of the Town's heritage, will be planted to accent the monument. A rendering of the proposed monument can be found in Appendix B.

4.3.2 Charles R. Hill Senior Center

The Charles R. Hill Senior Center resides on the same parcel as the Vinton War Memorial. Named for the former Mayor of the Town of Vinton, the Charles R. Hill Senior Center is available to the public for meetings, seminars, luncheons, dinners, weddings, receptions, social gatherings, and other special occasions.

4.4 THE VINTON MUSEUM

The Vinton Museum is housed in a family dwelling that was built in 1906. A native of Wellville, Virginia, J. H. Upson resigned his Lynchburg bookkeeping job in 1889 to move to Vinton. Bringing with him his new wife, Amelia Callis Upson, he opened a general store on the corner of Maple Street and Lee Avenue. Several years later, the Upson shingle hung over the doors of a grocery store and finally over the hardware store that he operated until his death in 1939.

In 1899, J.H. Upson purchased two parcels near his store where he built the ten-room house at 210 East Jackson Avenue, the current site of the Vinton Museum. In 1988, Mrs. Mary Upson Williams, daughter of J. H. and Amelia Upson, donated the Upson family home to the Town of Vinton for public or municipal purposes. Prior to her death in 1993, Williams made the following remarks about her donation, "I have lived here the bulk of my life. I want to give something back to the community, which has given to me."

Following Williams' death, the Town of Vinton leased the Upson house to the Vinton Historical Society, established in 1984, for use as a museum. The museum is dedicated to preserving and displaying local artifacts and family treasures for citizens and visitors to the area. More than 200 families have loaned or donated items for inclusion in the museum collection.

The Vinton Museum is home to thousands of items from the Vinton community and the surrounding Roanoke Valley. The collection includes pieces dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Native American arrowheads, porcelain dolls, china, hand-made dough bowls, World War II memorabilia, a variety of period clothing, and a host of items from Vinton schools. They also have a vast collection of photographs taken in and around Vinton that capture the essence of the time period in which they were taken. The majority of the

museum items were donated by individuals who realize the importance of historical preservation.

The Vinton Historical Society has been responsible for the operation of the Vinton Museum since 1988. The Vinton Museum has been recently refurbished and is open daily Monday through Friday from fall through spring from 9am-2pm. It is open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm or other times by appointment. Fundraising efforts, grants, and private donations have allowed the Vinton Historical Society to provide free admission to the public.



Image 4.4 The Vinton Museum was leased to the Vinton Historical Society in 1988.

4.5 THE VINTON SWIMMING POOL

The Town of Vinton Special Programs Department operates a public municipal swimming pool for people of all ages. It is located behind the Vinton War Memorial. The pool has traditionally operated between June and August of each year. On average, 3,000 to 4,000 patrons



Image 4.5 The Vinton Swimming Pool is scheduled to close in 2010.

visit the pool each summer. After 60 years of service, the Vinton public swimming pool is scheduled to close in 2010. The age and condition of the pool, coupled with hard economic times are the primary reasons for the scheduled closing.

4.6 THE VINTON FARMERS' MARKET

The Vinton Farmers' Market is located on Lee Avenue in downtown Vinton. Since 1988 the market has provided a location for local farmers to sell fresh produce, home-made baked goods, jam, jellies, greenery, handmade crafts, flowers, and plants.

The Vinton Farmers' Market, recently renovated, features 24 covered stalls with tables for vendors and 43 free parking spaces for customers. The market area also features a permanent stage at which concerts and special events are held throughout the year. Special events promote the market, the vendors, the downtown, and the Vinton community.

The market is owned and operated by the Town of Vinton. The market is supervised by the Town of Vinton Special Programs Coordinator. The following items may be sold at the Farmers' Market: homegrown or harvested produce fruits or vegetables, limited prepared foods, jams, jellies, honey, and highly acidic canned goods, handmade craft, live plants and fresh greenery. The Special Programs Coordinator has the authority to approve or disapprove any items sold on the Market.

4.7 THE VINTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Vinton Health Department, which serves residents in the Town of Vinton and Roanoke County, is one of seven local health departments within the Alleghany Health District. The Vinton Health Department is located in Downtown Vinton on South Pollard Street. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clinic services are provided based on family income and a sliding fee scale and/or at no cost to customers.

Among the services provided at the Health Department are the following: family planning clinics, maternal and infant care coordination, immunization clinics, child safety seat programs, nursing home prescreenings, communicable disease tracking, as well as environmental health services including onsite sewage disposal, private

wells, rabies, restaurant inspections, complaints and public pools.

4.8 SCHOOLS

4.8.1 Herman L. Horn Elementary

In 1961, East Vinton Elementary School, now Herman L. Horn, was constructed on Ruddell Road. In 1965 an addition was necessary to accommodate the growth. In 2005, another addition was completed, along with renovations of the school. Herman L. Horn consists of 38 classrooms with total student enrollment at 453. In addition, there are 75 staff members. Other facilities include a paved walking trail, two play structures, and one baseball/softball field.



Image 4.8.1 Herman L. Horn Elementary School

4.8.2 W.E. Cundiff Elementary

During the 1960's, rapid growth in population in the Vinton area led to overcrowding at Herman L. Horn and Roland E. Cook Elementary Schools. Therefore, a new elementary school became necessary. Hardy Road Elementary School officially opened its doors in August, 1972 with an enrollment of 732 students. The structure is located on a 22 acre tract on Hardy Road. In 1989, the Roanoke County School Board voted to change the name of Hardy Road Elementary School to W. E. Cundiff in honor of Bill Cundiff, a prominent businessman in the Vinton community. Currently, W.E. Cundiff consists of 37 classrooms with 520 students and 80 staff members.

4.8.3 William Byrd Middle and High

The majority of middle and high school age children and teenagers living along or near the Vinton study corridors attend William Byrd Middle and High School. Both facilities are located on one parcel located at 2902 Washington Avenue. Prior to its current location,

William Byrd High School was located on Gus Nicks Boulevard where it was built in 1938. Reverend Leggett, the minister at Thrasher Memorial Methodist Church began campaigning for the construction of a new high school. In 1969, William Byrd High School was built at its current location. The old school was then converted to William Byrd Middle School. In 1988, a new middle school was opened behind the current William High School High School.

Currently, there are 1,189 students attending William Byrd High School. There are 77 classrooms and 150 staff members. Other facilities include a football stadium, track, four tennis courts, a baseball field, and a softball field. All facilities are shared with William Byrd Middle School. The Middle School contains 60 classrooms, with 110 staff members and a student enrollment of 850.

In late summer 2009, facility improvements at William Byrd Middle and High School were approved by Roanoke County, VDOT and the Town of Vinton Public Works Department. Renovations include minor changes to William Byrd Middle School and expansions of the William Byrd High School's administrative offices, gymnasium and cafeteria.



Image 4.8.3 A rendering of the office expansion of William Byrd High School. Source: Roanoke County Public Schools

The facility on Gus Nicks Boulevard was last used as Central Middle School, an alternative school for students in need of additional academic support. The school was closed at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, and the facility is currently vacant.

A map of the school districts can be found in Appendix A.

the reporting districts may be found in Appendix A.

4.10 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER MERGER

At the time of this document, Roanoke County and the Town of Vinton had begun negotiations in evaluating the feasibility of merging their 911 call centers. In July 2009, the Vinton Town Council and the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors heard a presentation from staff on a preliminary investigation of the proposal outlining potential benefits and pitfalls of a communications center merger. The investigation included visits to existing combined dispatching facilities in York and Albemarle counties, both of which reported major successes with the combined operations.

In both counties, a unified center served a county with rural and urban elements, a city or town, and in Albemarle's case, a major university. With each, a major difficulty in the beginning had been the acquisition of compatible radio systems, something that Roanoke County and Vinton already share. A merger would require some Roanoke County staff to become adept at dispatching public works crews, something they don't do now. County dispatchers are becoming familiar with that task already, in an experiment to handle after-midnight calls for the Western Virginia Water Authority.

Of the Town of Vinton's eight dispatching positions, only six are filled. Those six employees would be moved to the county's new dispatching center located in its public safety headquarters on Cove Road, and would become Roanoke County employees.

4.11 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement in Roanoke County is divided into two organizations: the Roanoke County Police Department and the Roanoke County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office was the original law enforcement agency in Roanoke County, serving the citizens since 1838. The sheriff deputies provide three main areas of service to the community: corrections, court security, and civil processing. The Roanoke County Sheriff's Office has 103 sworn and civilian personnel which serves a population of 90,420. The Sheriff is an elected state constitutional officer who serves four year terms.

Table 4.8 School Enrollment Figures (1/2009)		
Area Schools	Grades	Student Total
Herman L. Horn Elementary	Kindergarten – Grade 5	453
W.E. Cundiff Elementary	Kindergarten – Grade 5	520
William Byrd Middle	Grade 6 – 8	850
William Byrd High	Grade 9 – 12	1189

Source: Roanoke County Public Schools

4.9 PUBLIC SAFETY

The Vinton Fire and EMS Department serves the corporate limits of Vinton, as well as eastern Roanoke County. They also provide back-up emergency services to other locations in Roanoke, Bedford, and Botetourt Counties. The station is manned by career firefighters and paramedics Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and an advanced life support unit is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Vinton First Aid Crew and Vinton Volunteer Fire Department provide Fire and EMS coverage for the area primarily on nights, weekends, and holidays. The department is funded by the Vinton Town Council, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, and citizen and corporate donations. The Vinton Fire Department was built in 1976. In 2007, an addition was built, which houses the Vinton First Aid Crew. In 2008, the Vinton Fire and EMS Station responded to 330 reported fire incidents and 1,518 reported rescue requests. A map of



Image 4.9 The Vinton Firehouse and First Aid Crew Hall

On November 7, 1989, the Roanoke County Police Department was established. This mandate was the beginning of an eight-month transition period from a Sheriff's Office into two separate law enforcement agencies, which was completed on June 30, 1990. On July 1, 1990 the Roanoke County Police Department assumed law enforcement activities. Since November 1997, the Roanoke County Police Department has been nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The Department has an assigned strength of 146 sworn officers and 13 civilian support staff positions.

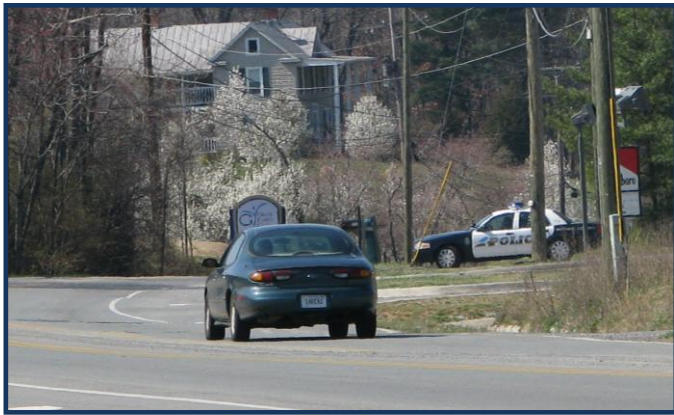


Image 4.11 Police patrol along Hardy Road

Residents in the Town of Vinton are served by the Vinton Police Department which is a state accredited agency. The Vinton Police Department is available 24 hours a day year round to assist in law enforcement, patrolling, traffic safety, animal control, and other community needs within the Town's corporate limits. A map of the reporting districts may be found in Appendix A.

4.12 PARKS & RECREATION

4.12.1 Goode Park

Goode Park is a 22-acre recreational area owned and operated by Roanoke County located north of Washington Avenue, and accessed by Leisure Lane. Park amenities include a picnic shelter, water fountains, a concession area with bathrooms, two seasonal athletic fields with lights for baseball and softball activities and parking accommodation for thirty vehicles. The park is located along Wolf Creek and includes a long stretch of the Wolf Creek Greenway. The park is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

4.12.2 Greenways

A greenway is a corridor of protected open space managed for conservation, recreation and non-motorized transportation. Greenways often follow natural features such as ridgelines, rivers and stream valleys, but may also be constructed along abandoned rail lines and utility easements. Many greenways are multi-use paths that include accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians. Communities benefit from greenways which provide economic revitalization, environmental protection, recreational opportunities and alternative transportation, as well as the enhancement of cultural and historical resources.

Though primarily designed for recreational purposes, greenways also promote and encourage environmental preservation. From a functional perspective, greenways are vegetated linear parks that provide tree cover, wildlife habitats, and riparian buffers to protect natural watercourses such as streams and rivers. From a community perspective, greenways enhance social interaction by providing access between neighborhoods, opportunities to travel between destination points without an automobile, and recreational opportunities that encourage healthier lifestyles.

The Wolf Creek Greenway, a priority two greenway, begins at Hardy Road and passes through the study area at Washington Avenue, continuing through Goode and Stonebridge Parks and eventually connecting into the Blue Ridge Parkway. The first section of the Wolf Creek Greenway located in the Town of Vinton, was completed in 1999 and is one-half mile long. The second portion of the greenway, located in Roanoke County, was initiated as a trail project in 1995.

The trail was updated to greenway standards from Stonebridge Park to Goode Park. The entire trail is now 2.2 miles long with the most recent section completed and opened to the public in 2007. The third section includes an extension from Stonebridge Park to Mountain View Road and eventually to the Blue Ridge Parkway. The southern terminus is in Vinton off of Hardy Road and the northern terminus is located in Roanoke County off of Mountain View Road. It is a cinder surfaced greenway. Extensions from Hardy Road south to Vinton Business Center and down the creek to the Roanoke River Greenway are options in the future.

In 2001, the Town of Vinton widened a portion of Hardy Road from two lanes to five lanes from the intersection of Bypass Road to the Roanoke County line. Bicycle lanes and sidewalks were included with connections to the greenway. In 2007, Mountain View Road was reconfigured, curves removed, and bike lanes added along both sides of the road. These bicycle lanes connect to the greenway.

4.13 UTILITIES

The Town of Vinton Public Works Department is responsible for water and sewer services in Vinton and East Roanoke County, management of the storm water runoff system, street and sidewalk maintenance, garbage and recycling collections, and traffic signal maintenance. There are 60.3 miles of water lines and 66.1 miles of sewer lines in the service area. Curbside household garbage is collected free of charge within the corporate limits each week. Recyclable materials such as aluminum, steel cans, newspaper, and plastics are collected every other week, according to the Recycling Calendar given out each year by the Town. The Public Works Department also handles utility service problems such as low water pressure, sewer backups, leaks on public property, requests for utility taps, or other service related items.

The following water, wastewater and stormwater management updates were provided by the Town of Vinton Public Work Department. A map of the existing water and sewer utilities can be found in Appendix A.



Image 4.13 The Town of Vinton cleans up a mudslide on Hardy Road following a flood in 2003.

4.13.1 Water and Wastewater

The Town of Vinton is proactive in planning for future water and wastewater needs in the Town and East County Utility Service Area. Multiple utility capital projects completed over the last 10 years affecting the study area corridors replaced overaged lines and preserved or improved line capacities. Major projects completed include Downtown Waterline & Wastewater Line Improvements, Hardy Road Waterline Improvements, Wolf Creek Wastewater Interceptor Replacement Project, Hardy Road Wastewater Pump Station Replacement, and Hardy Road Wastewater Force Main Extension. Additionally, a Water Supply and Distribution System Study was completed by a consulting engineer in 2006. Also, a wastewater capacity analysis of the Hardy Road Corridor was completed by a consulting engineer in 2007. Beginning in June 2009 a multi-year system-wide wastewater Inflow & Infiltration engineering study began, which will address both line condition and capacity issues in the collection system. These comprehensive engineering studies provide the Town a roadmap for future program planning and project development.

Groundwater is the Town's primary water source and is supplied to the utility service area from ten dispersed wells. Present average daily system demand is 1.2 million gallons per day with a comfortable well capacity of 2.0 million gallons per day. This 800 thousand gallon per day surplus is available to meet future growth and development throughout the service area. An eleventh well, drilled but not yet developed, will boost surplus capacity to over 1.0 million gallons per day. Wastewater line capacity is generally sufficient in the corridor study areas and the Town has significant available wastewater treatment capacity at the regionally operated Water Pollution Control Plant. Present effluent flow from the Town is 1.2 million gallons per day compared to a plant capacity share of 3.0 million gallons per day.

In 2008, the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors adopted amendments to Chapter 9 "Fire Prevention and Protection" of the Roanoke County Code implementing fire hydrant placement and flow standards. At the time of the 2008 amendment to the Roanoke County Code, the Town of Vinton had adopted the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and appointed the Roanoke County Fire Marshal as the designated fire official for enforcement within the Town limits. Additionally, the Town

implemented as policy in January 2008 standards identical to those adopted in the Roanoke County Code. Furthermore, the Town for well over ten years followed multi-jurisdictional design and construction standards, containing fire hydrant placement and flow requirements, which serve as the source document for the aforementioned fire prevention and protection code amendments. Finally, it should be noted for the record that all of the above standards apply to new construction, not to existing facilities.

The 2006 Water Supply and Distribution System Study analyzed water demands for residential, commercial, and industrial needs; as well as fire flow requirements. Residential, commercial, and industrial demands, present and future can be easily met by the system. Fire flow requirements identified the most problems. This is not surprising since a great many of the water lines serving the corridor areas were constructed over 40 years ago under much lower fire flow and hydrant placement practices. The estimated cost of upgrading these lines to current standards is \$4.3 million, based upon estimates contained in the 2006 distribution system study. The Town will need to address these deficiencies in the years ahead as part of a system-wide utility capital replacement program, which is expected to be in the range of \$35 million to \$40 million over the next 25 years.

Despite the above fire flow problems, new development and redevelopment along and around the corridors has been robust over the past 10 years. Construction of new or reconstruction of fast food restaurants such as Bojangles, Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's, and Burger King stand out in the Town; and expansion of the New York Pizza family restaurant is nearing completion. The startup of the Vinton Business Center with the opening of Cardinal Glass IG, a large industrial manufacturer with high water demands and fire flow requirements was a major milestone. Construction of a new Rite Aid Drugstore and Member One Federal Credit Union were also completed.

A new Off Track Betting Facility was completed within the corridor area, just in the last 5 years. A major expansion and renovation of the Kroger grocery store and the addition of a Super Dollar grocery store as a redevelopment in an existing shopping center were recently completed. Three existing churches underwent or are undergoing major expansions and additions in just the past 3 years. A new optician's office and retail outlet

was constructed. The Vinton War Memorial was completely renovated and expanded. The newest addition in the corridors is an Advance Auto Parts store, reconstructed on the same site, completed in October 2009. In all cases above, the full water needs of the new, reconstructed, or expanded facilities were accommodated by the Vinton water system.

4.13.2 Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management refers to the planned control of surface water runoff resulting from rainfall. The goals of stormwater management are to prevent both flooding and pollution, with various local, state and federal regulations to guide how these goals are accomplished. Existing stormwater infrastructure in the corridors is old and in many cases undersized. The structural condition and capacity are not known, but owing to pipe age much of the system is likely nearing the end of its useful service life.



Image 4.13.2 Many areas in and around the study corridors are not presently served by stormwater collection systems.

Many areas in or near the corridors are not presently served by stormwater collection systems. As new federal and state regulations governing both stormwater quantity and quality become effective, development and redevelopment along the corridors could be challenged. Full time maintenance of the collection system is on the horizon. The Town will need to address condition assessment of, investment in and maintenance of this important infrastructure asset in the very near future. Significant capital investment is likely, but it is not possible to quantify an estimated cost at this time. A map of the existing stormwater facilities is available in Appendix A.

4.13.3 Electric Service

Electricity is provided to the Vinton community by Appalachian Power Company, who serves about 1 million customers in West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee. Appalachian Power is part of the American Electric Power system, one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states.

There are six transmission lines that serve the Roanoke Valley. There are major substation facilities at Cloverdale and Dixie Caverns. The last transmission line was built in the valley in 1994. Current forecasts indicate that by 2010, some of the equipment will be loaded at or beyond its rated capacity. The overloading of conditions will put the valley's electric grid in violation of North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) guidelines.

Given these forecasts, through the Huntington Court-Roanoke Transmission Reinforcement Project, Appalachian Power plans to construct approximately six miles of 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to protect electric service in the greater Roanoke Valley. This project is estimated to cost \$15 million and will connect two existing electric substations in northeast and southeast Roanoke. The project is needed to reinforce the regional electric supply and to ensure compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards. Following several weeks of public input, the company identified a preferred and alternate route for the project. A request to construct the project is currently before the Virginia State Corporation Commission. The project's proposed preferred route will enter the Town of Vinton's western jurisdictional boundary. A map of the proposed transmission lines is located in Appendix A.

4.13.4 Cable

Cable is available from Cox Communications within the study area. Connections to their network are available throughout the study area via both above and below ground lines, and include both cable for television, internet, and phone.

4.13.5 Gas

Within the study area, natural gas is available from Roanoke Gas.

4.13.6 Telephone

Verizon and Cox Communications, Inc. provide telephone services to businesses and residences throughout the study area.

4.13.7 Internet

High speed internet service is provided throughout the study area by Cox Communications, Inc. and Verizon.